

SAID ED January 15, 2017

Our Profession of Faith

"Our profession of faith begins with God, for God is the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of everything. The Credo begins with God the Father, for the Father is the first divine person of the Most Holy Trinity; our Creed begins with the creation of heaven and earth, for creation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works."(The Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 198)

When we profess our faith during Mass, we are confessing a faith handed down to us—one not merely of human understanding, but of divine revelation and the discernment of two Ecumenical Councils. (Note: “[The] Creed is not the totality of Christian faith. It’s a summary that stands for everything that is taught by the Catholic Church.” -Scott Hahn.)

St. Basil the Great said, “No man lives alone, no man believes alone, God speaks his word to us and in speaking it calls us together, creates a community, his people, his Church.” And so we acknowledge what we believe in the presence of our community and in union with the whole of the Church.

At Mass I sometimes trip up on the words of the Nicene Creed. In my attempt to say it “with one voice” with those around me, I find myself mentally jumping ahead to recall the next line instead of hearing what I am saying at the moment. In my desire to have the Creed memorized, I resist grabbing a hymnal and reading it word for word, but in reflecting on this habit, I am realizing that I need to read it. I need to read so I can, as Saint Paul instructed “confess with [my] mouth that Jesus is Lord” (Romans 10:9a), and understand what I am saying in communion with my brothers and sisters in Christ. As I strive to consistently ‘get the words right’ in our profession of faith, my hope is that we would all strive for the unity the Creed proclaims.

This weekend we are celebrating the Rite of Enrollment with our candidates for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. This marks their official welcome into formal catechesis for those Sacraments. We, as the Body of Christ are called to assist these candidates in their preparation, through prayer, support, and our good example. It is our turn to hand on the faith, an awesome and solemn responsibility which Jesus gives to all of his followers.

Thank you for keeping the candidates, their families and catechists in your prayers.

~ Bethany
Coordinator of Religious Education
